

94. (amended) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a fulcrum tremolo;

a biasing element comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body; and

at least one biasing element holder; and

a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising:

a thumbwheel portion operable to position the at least one biasing element [spring] holder,

wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion adjusts the equilibrium point between the tension of the strings and the tension of the biasing element to adjust initial position.

95. (amended) The apparatus of claim 94, wherein the [biasing element] singular apparatus further comprises:

a U-shaped spring.

96. (amended) An apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body; and
a fulcrum tremolo comprising:
 at least one spring [biasing element] comprising a first end and a second
 end, the first end and the second end positioned opposite from each
 other on the at least one spring [biasing element], the at least one
 spring [biasing element] positioned between the fulcrum tremolo
 and the body;
 a spring holder connected to the [first end of the] biasing element [and
 having a threaded portion];
 a singular apparatus connected to the at least one spring comprising a
 thumbwheel[, the thumbwheel comprising:
 a threaded portion;] and
 a threaded elongated portion, the threaded elongated portion
 threadedly connected to the singular apparatus [spring holder] and
 the threaded elongated portion threadedly connected to the singular
 apparatus.]
 wherein rotation of the thumbwheel adjusts the equilibrium point between the
 tension of the strings and the tension of the at least one spring [biasing
 element] and thereby adjusting [a] the initial position [of a rotation] of a
 fulcrum tremolo.

97. (amended) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the [thumbwheel holder] singular
apparatus further comprises:
 a secondary spring holder being threadedly engaged with the threaded elongated
 portion, and
 wherein the fulcrum tremolo being positioned between the thumbwheel and the
 secondary spring holder.

98. (original) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the spring holder being positioned between the thumbwheel and the biasing element.

99. (original) The apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a secondary spring holder connected to the biasing element,

wherein the thumbwheel further comprises a second elongated threaded portion, wherein the fulcrum tremolo further comprises a threaded opening, and wherein the thumbwheel is positioned between the secondary spring holder and the threaded opening.

104. (original) A fulcrum tremolo comprising an intonation module with a forward portion and a rearward portion:

the intonation module comprising:

a base;

a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end forming a second critical point; and wherein the rearward portion forms a string anchoring point closer to the base than the second critical point; and

wherein the string anchoring point is located a critical distance from the second critical point operable to render a string as approximately inextensible between the anchoring point and the second critical point.

105. (amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the intonation module further comprises:

a macro tuner.

106. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the critical distance is at least 0.25 inch.

107. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the critical distance is about equal to the length of conventional musical instrument string wrapping.

108. Cancelled

109. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, further comprising:
a base plate attached to the intonation module, the base plate comprising a string hole.

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110. (original) A fulcrum tremolo with a forward end and a rearward end, the fulcrum tremolo comprising:

a base plate comprising a string hole;

a spring holder that is transverse to the base plate [and attached to the base plate]
comprising:

a first string anchoring point; and

a string passageway having an axis wherein a longitudinal axis of the
string passageway aligns with the string hole;

an intonation module attached to the spring holder comprising:

a base;

a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer
to the forward end than the rearward end and forming a second
critical point; and

wherein the rearward portion forms an alternate string anchoring point
closer to the base than the second critical point; and

wherein the alternate string anchoring point is located a critical distance
from the second critical point so that a string is rendered
essentially inextensible between the alternate string anchoring
point and the second critical point.

111. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 110, wherein the intonation module
further comprises:

a macro tuner.

112. (amended) A tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
at least one bridge [support] element; and
a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and
forming a pivot axis, and
an end opposite of the forward edge;
a bend in the unitary component at an opposite end of the forward edge of
the base plate;
a transverse portion comprising:
at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing
element; and
[at least one string socket formed in the single piece of bent material to
receive an anchor of a string,]
wherein the bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion, and
wherein the bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to
the pivot axis, and
wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge
[support] element.

113. (amended) The tremolo of claim 112, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:

[the] at least one string socket.

114. (amended) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising: a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:

a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:

a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and

an end opposite of the forward edge;

a first bend in the unitary component at an opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate;

[at least one string socket to receive an end of a string]; and

a transverse portion comprising:

at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing element,

wherein the first bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion, and

wherein the first bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to the pivot axis,

at least one bridge element[second critical point] connected to the unitary component.

115. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the first bend further comprises:

a reinforcement.

116. (amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:

[a spring blade] at least one string socket to receive an end of a string.

117. (amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate further comprises at least one string hole, and
wherein the transverse portion [spring blade] further comprises:
an upper portion;
a lower portion comprising at least one string passageway, each of the at least one string passageway is aligned with at least one of the least one string hole in the base plate; and
at least one second bend that transitions from the upper portion to the lower portion,
wherein the lower portion [being bent transverse the upper portion] is approximately parallel to the pivot axis.

118. (amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate [transverse portion] further comprises:
at least one tier for displacing the at least one bridge element [second critical point] from the base plate.

119. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
the at least one string socket.

120. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a pivot having a knife edge.

121. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a pivot having a beveled edge.

122. (amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

123. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
at least a portion of a ball bearing surface; and
at least a portion of a shaft.
124. Cancelled
125. (New) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
at least one bridge element; and
a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
a pivot forming a pivot axis;
at least one bend in the base plate;
at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion
of at least one bearing assembly,
wherein the at least one bend and the at least one additional portion have
an axis approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and
wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge
element.

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126. (New) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
at least one bridge element; and
a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
a forward edge, and;
at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at
least one bearing assembly;
the at least one bearing assembly , comprising:
at least a portion of a shaft,
at least one housing,
at least a portion of a ball bearing surface, and
at least one annular flange.

wherein the at least one annular flange spaces the at least a portion of at least one
bearing assembly away from the base plate.

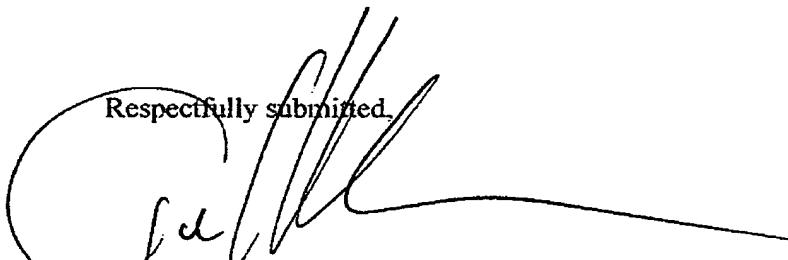
REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 94-99 and 104-126.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims 94-99 and 104-126 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey Lee McCabe